

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): An alloy ~~endowed with high-temperature mechanical strength in an oxidizing medium~~, comprising a chromium-containing matrix strengthened by precipitation of carbides, wherein said alloy comprises carbides of titanium, said carbides optionally further comprising tantalum, wherein the alloy consists essentially of the following elements (the proportions being indicated in percentages by weight of the alloy):

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| Cr | 23 to 34%; |
| Ni | 6 to 12%; |
| Ti | 0.5 to 5%; |
| Ta | 0 to 7%; |
| C | 0.2 to 1.2%; |
| Fe | less than 3%; |
| Si | less than 1%; |
| Mn | less than 0.5%, |

the balance consisting of cobalt and impurities, and wherein the alloy has microstructural stability after exposure at 1200°C for 100 hours.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled):

4. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises

titanium, and optionally tantalum, in a metal/carbon molar ratio (Ti + Ta)/C of around 0.9 to 2.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.6 to 5% titanium by weight.

7. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.6 to 4% titanium by weight.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is about 1 to 7%.

11. (Withdrawn): An article for the hot smelting or conversion of glass, made of an alloy as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn): The article as claimed in claim 11, which has undergone a forging operation after the alloy has been cast.

13. (Withdrawn): The article as claimed in claim 11, which consists of a fiberizing spinner for the manufacture of mineral wool.

14. (Withdrawn): A process for manufacturing an article as claimed in claim 11, comprising the casting of the molten alloy in a suitable mold.

15. (Withdrawn): A process for manufacturing mineral wool by internal centrifugation, in which a stream of molten mineral material is poured into a fiberizing spinner, the peripheral band of which is pierced by a multitude of orifices via which filaments of molten mineral material escape that are then attenuated through the action of a gas into wool, wherein the temperature of the mineral material in the spinner is at least 1200°C and the fiberizing spinner is made of a cobalt-based alloy as claimed in claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the molten mineral material has a liquidus temperature of around 1130°C or higher.

17. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises at least 0.6% carbon by weight.

18. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises titanium, and optionally tantalum, in a metal/carbon molar ratio $(Ti + Ta)/C$ of around 0.9 to 1.5.

19. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.6 to 3% titanium by weight.

20. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises zirconium.

21. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is about 2 to 6%.

22. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is 1.5 to less than 5%.

23. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alloy contains less than 1% tungsten and/or 1% molybdenum.

24. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alloy contains less than 0.1% tungsten and/or 0.1% molybdenum.